

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **December 17, 2004** the Examiner reviewed claims 1-27. Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Saleh et al. (USPub 2001/0033548, hereinafter "Saleh").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Independent claims 1, 10, and 19 were rejected as being anticipated by Saleh. Applicant respectfully points out that Saleh teaches **exchanging special hello packets** created by an intermediate node and including a link state advertisement (LSA) message between adjacent nodes to establish to establish a complete topology of the network for the node (see Saleh, page 6, paragraph [0076]).

In contrast, the present invention examines **normal data packets** enroute from a source to a destination to determine if the packets have already been seen, and sends data packets that have not been previously seen to all adjacent nodes except the node from which the data packet was received (see FIG. 3, page 6, lines 16-21, and page 8, line 21 to page 10, line 8 of the instant application). This is beneficial because it precludes exchanging special messages between adjacent nodes and precludes requiring a node to learn the network topology. There is nothing within Saleh, either explicit or implicit, which suggests examining normal data packets enroute from a source to a destination to determine if the packets have already been seen and sending data packets that have not been previously seen to all adjacent nodes except the node from which the data packet was received.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19 to clarify that the present invention examines normal data packets enroute from a source to a destination to determine if the packets have already been seen, and sends data packets that have not been previously seen to all adjacent nodes except

the node from which the data packet was received. These amendments find support in FIG. 3, in page 6, lines 16-21, and in page 8, line 21 to page 10, line 8 of the instant application

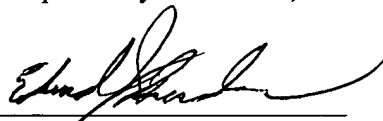
Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 10, and 19 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-9, which depend upon claim 1, claims 11-18, which depend upon claim 10, and claims 20-27, which depend upon claim 19, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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